

February 12, 2009

Senator Ed Mayer, Co-Chair
Representative Richard Roy, Co-Chair
Members of the Environment Committee

RE: Proposed H.B. No. 5809 An Act Renaming The State Shellfish Research Vessel

The "JOHN H. VOLK".

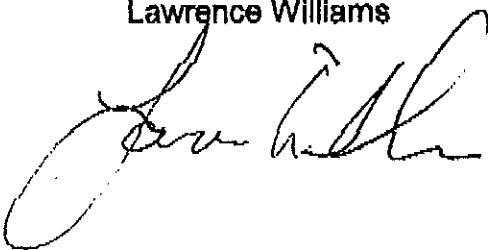
As a shell fisherman for 35 years, I can think of no greater tribute than to name a state vessel after the man who helped so many over his career. John Volk was an advocate, outspoken supporter, and coupled with his personal experience, an extremely rare individual who believed in the shell fish industry and its leasing system with all his heart.

There are many companies that owe their start to John, my own included. A personal friend, I had the privilege to experience his dedication and belief in his position. John's oversight was tempered by a commitment to an enduring transgenerational outlook. He always looked to the future, aware that the choices he made would directly effect the strength of the program. We have a strong industry today because of the quality of his commitment, as well as his character, truly one of a kind. The State of Connecticut got it right when he was hired as director of Aquaculture.

His passing is a very personal loss for me and an even greater loss for the industry he loved so much.

I miss him dearly.

Lawrence Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Williams", written over a horizontal line.